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Mrs. Simpson Now Willing To Withdraw

Signed Announcement Is
Made On Her Behalf
At Cannes

**MAY OFFER POSSIBLE
WAY OUT OF CRISIS**

**Said To Have Told The King
Before Her Departure
From England**

LONDON, Dec. 8.—In a statement which came as a surprise even to Court circles in England, Mrs. Ernest Simpson, the American lady whom the King wishes to marry, announced last night her willingness, if such action would solve the problem, to withdraw immediately.

The statement was read to some score of journalists at the Hotel Majestic in Cannes by Lord Brownlow, the wealthy land-owner and friend of the King, who afterwards handed copies to all present. Lord Brownlow emphasized that Mrs. Simpson was giving no interview whatever.

The announcement, which was signed by Mrs. Simpson, who did not appear in person, was:

"Mrs. Simpson, throughout the last few weeks, has invariably wished to avoid any action or proposal which would hurt or damage His Majesty or the Throne."

"To-day her attitude is unchanged, and she is willing, if such action would solve the problem, to withdraw forthwith from a situation that has been rendered both unhappy and untenable."

Court Circles Surprised

The statement came as a great surprise in Court circles, where it was completely unexpected.

It is learnt that those close to the King at Fort Belvedere, where His Majesty is in residence, did not know of the announcement until the Reuter message reporting it was read to them.

The announcement is not regarded as having ended the crisis, but is looked on merely as a statement of personal opinion by Mrs. Simpson.

In this connection, it is stressed that the phrase "if such action could solve the problem," must be taken as significant.

Those who are in a position to know declare that the announcement was made by Mrs. Simpson purely on her own initiative and of her own volition.

Hopeful Atmosphere

It is felt that only action by the King can end the present situation and that all other steps, however important, can have only a limited effect.

Mrs. Simpson's statement has created a more hopeful atmosphere in Parliamentary circles, and the opinion is generally held that it may offer a possible way out of the difficulty.

Some quarters express the view that the pronouncement may bring a dramatic acceleration to the march of events.—Reuter.

Another Reported Statement

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Before her departure from England for Cannes, Mrs. Ernest Simpson told the King that "no obligation under which he might feel bound to her should in any way affect his decision in the matter of his responsibility towards the Empire."

This statement was made to-day by the Washington "Evening Star," the proprietors of which possess family associations with Mrs. Simpson. The information was described by the journal as "definite and authoritative."—Reuter's American Service.

Commons To Hear Report Of Baldwin

Disappointment Voiced Over Delay In Giving Facts To Public

CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS STILL IN BALANCE

King Summons Brothers To Discussion Held At Fort Belvedere

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Contrary to expectations, the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, failed to make a statement in the House of Commons to-day on the constitutional issue arising out of the King's desire to marry Mrs. Ernest Simpson.

He did, however, express the hope to be able to make a statement to-morrow.

As soon as the House re-assembled this afternoon Mr. C. R. Attlee, Leader of the Labour Opposition, asked whether the Prime Minister was now in a position to add anything to the statement he made on Monday.

"I regret," Mr. Baldwin replied, "that I am not in a position to add anything to-day, but I hope to make a statement to-morrow."

Mr. Attlee asked whether the Premier "can give us good hope of the statement to-morrow, as anxiety is increasing."

Mr. Baldwin: "I can assure Mr. Attlee and the House that no one realises that more than I do."

Mr. F. J. Bellinger, Labour member for the Bassettlaw division of Notts, then drew attention to the great financial inconvenience being caused by the delay in coming to a decision, and requested the Prime Minister kindly to suggest to the King the necessity of an early decision.

After cries of "Oh!" had subsided, Mr. Baldwin replied "I can assure him that has not escaped me."

The crisis was the main topic of discussion at the usual weekly meeting of the Cabinet at 11 o'clock this morning.

There was a full attendance of Ministers, who were closeted together for 2½ hours.

Important Talks

Important discussions on the constitutional crisis were held yesterday evening at Fort Belvedere, where the Prime Minister dined with the King, the Duke of York, Heir Apparent to the Throne, the Duke of Kent, His Majesty's youngest brother, Mr. Walter Monckton, k.c., Attorney-General to the Duchy of Cornwall, and Sir Eric Mieville, private secretary to the Duke of York.

Mr. Baldwin, who had not seen the King since Saturday, arrived at about 5.30 p.m. accompanied by Mr. Monckton and Sir Eric Mieville.

The Duke of Kent, who had spent the day with the King, was already there. The Duke of York's car entered the back gates of the residence at 6.30 p.m., but it was impossible to identify the occupant.

Back To Downing Street

After having been at Fort Belvedere for four hours and 45 minutes, Mr. Baldwin left at 10.15 p.m. and drove back to No. 10 Downing Street, his official residence, where the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, who had arrived at 9.30 p.m., was awaiting his return.

The Duke of York and the Duke of Kent left Fort Belvedere at 11 p.m., but the latter returned at 1

o'clock in the morning and remained there for the night.

Mr. Monckton also spent the night at the King's country house.

This morning, about an hour before the Cabinet was due to meet the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, visited No. 10 Downing Street. Soon afterwards Mr. Monckton arrived.

Sir Edward Peacock, Receiver-General of the Duchy of Cornwall, also called at No. 10 Downing Street this morning.

All-Round Activity

The situation was responsible for activity yesterday not only at Fort Belvedere, but in Whitehall, Westminster and Buckingham Palace.

The King's Private Secretary, Major the Hon. Alexander Hardinge, drove to Lambeth Palace from Buckingham Palace last evening to see the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Cosmo Lang.

Mr. Baldwin did not attend the House of Commons yesterday, and, in his absence, Sir John Simon replied to a question put by Mr. C. R. Attlee, leader of the Opposition, in the afternoon.

The Home Secretary said: "The Prime Minister has asked me to express his regret at not being able to reply in person. He has, however, nothing to add to the statement he made yesterday."

Mr. Attlee: "Can the Right Hon. gentleman give an indication as to when the House will receive further information?"

Sir John Simon: "No, Sir. I must leave the Prime Minister to do that."

In the morning the Home Secretary and Sir Samuel Hoare, First Lord of the Admiralty, were with Mr. Baldwin at No. 10 Downing Street for nearly two hours. In the afternoon, Viscount Halifax, the Lord Privy Seal, called, and, after his visit, Mr. Baldwin set out for Fort Belvedere.—Reuter.

Attitude Of M.P.'s

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Neither trade unionist nor labour members of Parliament will back the King's viewpoint in case of a constitutional conflict, political observers asserted following persistent rumours from Westminster that the intimate friends of His Majesty have tried to obtain from Labour representative definite statements on this subject.

The opinion of Members of Parliament, accordingly, seems to be unanimous that King must submit himself to constitutional rule.—Havas.

King's Secretary Sees Primate

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Giving rise to much speculation in London, a call was paid last night on Lambeth Palace, residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, by the King's Secretary, Major Alexander Harding.—Havas.

SAYS SHE IS WILLING TO WITHDRAW



Mrs. Ernest Simpson, seen above in smart outdoor attire, has announced at Cannes that "she is willing, if such action would solve the problem, to withdraw forthwith from a situation that has been rendered both unhappy and untenable." It is felt in some quarters that this will materially assist the King in making his momentous decision.

[S. & G.]

Concern For King Edward Keynote Of Press Views On New Phase Of Crisis

Certainty Of Unhappiness For His Majesty Whatever His Final Decision; Conscience Drama For British Monarch, Says "Telegraph"

"THE BRAND OF UNFITNESS" ASKED FOR MRS. SIMPSON, SAYS "TIMES"

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The constitutional crisis continues to evoke editorial comment in the British press.

The "Morning Post," in a leader to-day, says there is certain to be unhappiness for the King whatever his final decision may be. Unhappily, that is an inherent situation. The declaration issued on behalf of Mrs. Simpson is proof enough of that, however it may avert the worst that threatened.

If the King chooses the straight and stony path of self-sacrifice, the present pain, adds the "Morning Post," will earn abundant rewards not only in his future peace of mind, but in the world's regard.

The "Daily Telegraph" says that for the King, this is a drama of conscience. The marriage of the King had been looked forward to with happy anticipations for many

a long year. If there had been a Queen Consort to share with him the solemn ceremonies of the coronation, the pleasure of his people would have been more than doubled. But there are circumstances in the present proposal which freeze the very pulse of romance and gravely offend the deepest susceptibilities of men and women whose loyalty to the King and the Crown is one of the strongest fibres of their being.

Morganatic Marriage

"The Times" points out that in his statement in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister, did not refer, except incidentally, to the proposal for legalizing under the Constitution a marriage whereby the King might take a wife who should not be Queen.

This proposal, it says, has been rejected by all the Governments of the Empire, and has commended itself to no one capable of visualizing, however imperfectly, either its immediate or remoter consequences.

The only conflict at present, "The Times" proceeds, is a conflict—with which all loyal onlookers must deeply sympathize—within the King's own breast. The only possible prayer at present is that the King may end it with a decision which will leave undamaged the monarchy and the Empire.

"Statutory Apology"

Discussing the demand in favour of a morganatic marriage, the paper says what is demanded is statutory recognition of the fact that she is not fitted to be queen.

The Prime Ministers of the Empire, it continues, are to be asked to propose, and the parliaments to accept, a permanent statutory apology for the status of the lady whom the King desires to marry. The constitution is to be amended in order that she may carry, in solitary prominence, the brand of unfitness for the Queen's throne.

"Can anyone in possession of his faculties," the "Times" asks, "imagine any Prime Minister moving, or any Parliament undertaking to support, a proposition so invidious and distressing?"

The "Daily Herald" says that of the two possibilities ahead, neither the abandonment of his proposed marriage nor the abdication of the King will affect the permanence of the Constitution nor any of its practices. For a short while the King must be left to a decision that only he can take. Whichever it is, the people will hope equally for his welfare and happiness.

The "News-Chronicle" says Mrs. Simpson owes a duty not only to the man she loves but to the King of England. That she has made the choice she has redounds to her credit. The way for personal renunciation has been made clear for the King by the act of the woman he loves. The path is now free for him, laying aside all private inclinations, to shoulder the responsibilities of the high office of kingship and to dedicate himself unflinchingly to the service of the people, who are anxious to honour him loyally.

Ample time for reflection must, indeed, be afforded our young sovereign, says the "Daily Mail." One sentiment predominates over all else. To lose this young leader whom long ago people learnt to trust and love would be one of the darkest tragedies that ever befell the devoted subjects of a realm.

Mrs. Simpson's message, says the "Daily Express," can mean only one thing—Mrs. Simpson is making a renunciation.—Reuter.

No Developments Occur Yesterday In Crisis Of King's Marriage Wishes

MYSTERY AEROPLANE LEAVES LONDON
CONTAINING THREE MEN IN DASH TO
CANNES AND MRS. SIMPSON

COMINGS AND GOINGS BETWEEN LONDON,
FORT BELVEDERE AND WINDSOR

Mr. Stanley Baldwin Has Nothing To Add To His
Previous Statements In House Of Commons;
But Goes To Interview His Majesty

LONDON, Dec. 8.—Mr. Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Walter Monckton, K.C., legal adviser to the Duchy of Cornwall, left for Fort Belvedere at 4.15 this afternoon.

Mr. Baldwin was once again engaged in further informal conversations this morning with some of his Ministers, but pending the King's decision no important development is likely.

Late this morning there was no indication that the Prime Minister would make a statement in Parliament to-day.

The usual crowds at vantage points saw less comings and goings to-day than former days.

The Duke and Duchess of York, who spent the week-end at Windsor, returned to their Piccadilly residence this morning, while early this afternoon the Duke of Kent, in a black and white saloon car, drove briskly into Fort Belvedere, where he was evidently expected.

"Nothing To Add"

The Prime Minister has nothing to add to-day to the statement he made yesterday on the constitutional crisis, declared Sir John Simon, the Home Secretary, in the House of Commons this afternoon in replying to Mr. C. R. Attlee, the Leader of the Labour Opposition, on behalf of Mr. Baldwin.

Labour Party Meeting

The constitutional issue arising out of the King's wish to marry Mrs. Ernest Simpson was the subject of discussion at an unprecedentedly crowded meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party to-day, but no decision was reached.

The Party is reported to be inclined at present to the view that it is the Government's duty to deal with the situation, but that when the time comes the Prime Minister may be criticized on various points.

It, however, refuses to formulate a specific policy at the present time.

It is learnt that there was considerable support among speakers

Mystery Plane For Cannes

LONDON, Dec. 8.—Much curiosity is being exhibited regarding a mystery aeroplane which left Croydon this morning for Cannes.

After an hour's delay, owing to bad weather conditions, the aeroplane flew on from Le Bourget, France, where it refuelled, despite the storm.

The occupants are stated to be three men. One report says they are Home Office officials.

A cordon of gendarmes is guarding the aerodrome at Lyons, where the plane is expected to refuel next. Nobody is allowed to approach the aerodrome.—Reuter.

at to-day's meeting for the view that the King should take the advice of his Ministers when such advice is tendered.

At Fort Belvedere

Fort Belvedere was lit up until the early hours of the morning. The Duke of York visited the King last evening and departed at a late hour in the direction of his lodge at Windsor, where he is staying with Mr. Walter Monckton, K.C., legal adviser to the Duchy of Cornwall.

The Duke returned to Fort Belvedere after midnight and spent the night there. He departed for London after nine this morning, accompanied by Sir Edward Peacock, Receiver-General of the Duchy of Cornwall.

There was not much activity in Downing Street this morning. The only persons to call on Mr. Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister, were Sir John Simon, the Home Secretary, and Sir Samuel Hoare, First Lord of the Admiralty.—Reuter.

Mrs. Simpson Complains

CANNES, Dec. 8.—Mrs. Simpson who is resting at the home of her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, has complained against the permanent watch of pressmen and photographers who haunt the doors of the villa "Lou Vie".

It is reported that she is contemplating a trip to Italy if such close surveillance is continued.—Havas.

Amazing Scene In Commons

LONDON, Dec. 7.—The amazing scene in which the House vented its disapproval of Mr. Winston Churchill was the sole topic conversation after the statement on the constitutional crisis made in the Commons to-day by the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin.

Directly Mr. Churchill rose a number of Labourites shouted "Sit down!" These protestations continued, supplemented with cries of "Question!" and "Speech!" as he firmly stood his ground and endeavoured to smash the opposition down.

Then the Speaker, Captain E. A. Fitzroy, intervened with "I think Mr. Churchill should confine what he has to say to a simple question."

The House at once bowed to the Speaker's wishes and enabled Mr. Churchill to put his question, but Captain Fitzroy pulled him up when the question was developing into an expression of views.

The Speaker said that Mr. Churchill was going beyond a simple question.

Replying to Mr. Churchill, who attempted to extract a promise that no irrevocable step would be taken before the House had received a full statement about the constitutional and other issues, Mr. Baldwin made a conciliatory reply, saying he did not know what the King's decision would be.

Discussing the outburst later, members of all parties expressed themselves as unable to remember for many years so direct and spontaneous an attack upon a public figure from so many quarters of the House.

Mr. Churchill's Manifesto

The Government's closest supporters regard Mr. Churchill's manifesto, in which he contended that no Ministry had the right to advise abdication and that the Cabinet had no right to prejudge the question without ascertaining the will of Parliament, as being more against Mr. Baldwin than for the King.

During the discussion in the House to-day Colonel Josiah Wedgwood (Independent), a former Cabinet Minister, rose to ask the Prime Minister if he would give an early opportunity to discuss the motion he tabled last Thursday. (This invited the House to subscribe to the opinion that the Oath of Allegiance already taken to King Edward would not be affected by any form of coronation ceremony, or by the presence at the ceremony or absence from it of any dignity or personage whatsoever, nor would the House of Commons substitute any other for the King of England).

"No," Mr. Baldwin replied laconically.

Mr. Wedgwood endeavoured to pursue the matter, but the Speaker called him to order, stating that he had asked a question and had received a very definite answer.

The proceedings were listened to from a well-filled Diplomatic Gallery, while a notable figure in the Distinguished Strangers Gallery was Sir Eric Mieville, private secretary to the Duke of York, heir apparent to the Throne.—Reuter.

Statement I. Lords

LONDON, Dec. 7.—A statement on the constitutional crisis similar to the one delivered in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, was made in the House of Lords by Viscount Halifax, Lord Privy Seal.

The statement was to the effect that, with the exception of the question of a morganatic marriage, no advice had been tendered to the King by the Government; that all Mr. Baldwin's conversations with His Majesty had been strictly personal and informal; and that, while the Government wished to afford the King the fullest opportunity of weighing his decision, it could not but be aware that any considerable prolongation of the present state of suspense would involve risk of the gravest injury to national and Imperial interests.

Lord Snell, for the Opposition, concurred in the inadvisability of a discussion, but urged that the matter should not be allowed to drift and expressed the hope that as soon as circumstances permitted, the Government would give to Parliament any information at its disposal. For the Liberals, the Marquess of Crewe, formerly Ambassador at Paris and a Minister in several Cabinets, who, in the course of his career, served Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V, added a few words as "one who had had the honour of serving three former sovereigns in a position of confidence."

"I feel sure," he said, "that your lordships will be gratified to know that statements which have appeared in some irresponsible quarters that the Government has applied some undue pressure to His Majesty to declare his decision in this matter are altogether without foundation."

"I feel, on the contrary, that we are all indebted to the Prime Minister and the Government for the attitude which they have adopted in this difficult matter.

"I should like also to add to what has been said in expression of our profound sympathy with His Majesty and equal expression of sympathy with the Royal Family and, in particular, with Queen Mary, who has won so completely the respect and affection of His Majesty's subjects."—Reuter.

Canada Relieved

OTTAWA, Dec. 3.—Mr. Stanley Baldwin's statement at Westminster on the constitutional crisis has occasioned a direct feeling of relief among classes in Canada.

The clear statement that the Home Government will not press the King over his decision has given the man in the street profound satisfaction.—Reuter's American Service.

Better Stock Exchange

LONDON, Dec. 3.—Although the constitutional crisis remained unsettled this morning the Stock Exchange reacted favourably as prospects for an early settlement of the difficulties became brighter. The pound sterling and English stocks rose to higher levels.

Meanwhile, Mr. W. W. Monckton, legal adviser, and Sir Edward Peacock, Comptroller, of the Duchy of Cornwall, who conferred with the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, yesterday, drove to London from Fort Belvedere in the King's car early this morning.

Mr. Winston Churchill, prominent Tory leader, refused to deliver a speech on the constitutional crisis which was to be broadcast in the United States.

Sir Austen Chamberlain, prominent conservative leader, and Lord Lloyd, who intended to go to Paris, have cancelled their appointments abroad and are remaining in England.—Havas.

Lloyd George To Return

LONDON, Dec. 3.—News received here from Kingston, Jamaica, indicated that the former Prime Minister, Mr. David Lloyd George, who arrived here a week ago on a holiday cruise, has decided to return to England immediately.

Mr. Lloyd George's sudden change of programme (originally he had planned a two months' stay in Jamaica), is attributed to the constitutional crisis in England.—Transocean-Kuo Min.

"Don't Look Now, But There's Mrs. Simpson With The King Agoin."

B. D.

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Surrounded by a distinguished gathering of Britain's elect, and escorted by King Edward VIII, the scene above in a London theater lobby typifies the acme of social position attained by Mrs. Ernest Simpson. She has known romance, adventure, social success and royal admiration; what does the future hold for this celebrated "Yankee in King Edward's Court?"

Companion Of King Expected To Become "Lady Simpson"

Edward And Baltimore Belle Both Like "St. Louis Blues"; Biddle Street Boarding House Now Far Behind

By LAURA LOU BROOKMAN
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 17.—The vivacious American, photographed so often with King Edward VIII of England, may be "Wally" to her London friends and Mrs. Ernest Simpson to the world, but she is still "Wallis Warfield" in Baltimore.

Perhaps it is because the name of Warfield has been so long and prominently known here.

There was Governor Edward Warfield, cousin of Mrs. Simpson's father.

There was "Sol" Warfield, president of Seaboard Airline railroad and well-known Baltimore banker, who, when he died, a bachelor, in 1928, left his niece Wallis, the income from a \$25,000 trust fund for life, with the notation that "my niece has been educated by me and otherwise provided for by my mother and myself, in addition to the provision made here."

What are they saying of the famous Mrs. Simpson in Baltimore today?

"Oh, yes—Wallis Warfield!" a young woman, prominent in Baltimore society, exclaimed. "I didn't see her that time she was here for the races in 1934. I wish I had. They say her husband's right handsome. Do you think he'll be knighted?"

Said a member of the family now occupying Mrs. Simpson's home at 212 Biddle St.: "I guess those Warfields had to struggle along just about the way we are now. Gosh, wouldn't it be funny if one of us should ever see a palace!"

Mrs. Simpson's closest relatives here—Henry M. Warfield, an uncle, and Mrs. Zachary Robert Lewis, a cousin—are among those who have no comments to make about their relative in London. They do not wish to be quoted.

There is little doubt that when Wallis Warfield Spencer Simpson next visits her home town, her arrival will be greeted with a display of interest equal to, if not exceeding, that occasioned when

Marie, Queen of Rumania, was entertained here a dozen or so years ago.

Will Wallis Warfield come back as Lady Simpson? This question is in the air whenever the former Baltimore debutante is mentioned among those who knew her in the days before her first marriage. Among those who know her still, the view is, generally, that such honor for Ernest Simpson is altogether likely.

The Simpsons' friends here feel that, in discussions of Mrs. Simpson's frequent appearances with Edward VIII, the English monarch's friendship with her husband has been under-stressed.

There is interest, too, in Baltimore, in Mrs. Simpson's new home, at No. 16 Cumberland Terrace in London. Those who have visited the Simpson's apartment in Bryanston Court hope they'll be invited to the new home.

They don't expect Mrs. Simpson to be stand-offish or "up-stage," now that her name appears frequently in the British Court Circular. They point out that she never has been stand-offish.

Although the Simpsons have entry to the most exclusive society in London, they always have lived with comparative simplicity and lack of display. Their Bryanston Court apartment was notable for its homelike atmosphere. The drawing room had apple green walls and ceiling, with curtains and car-

pet to match. There was a fireplace, shelves lined with books, plenty of easy chairs, a mirror over the mantle. The dining room was decorated in amber, a shade most becoming as a background for the dark-haired hostess.

It is told here that Mr. and Mrs. Simpson met many of their present friends through Lord and Lady Furness—an acquaintanceship that arose from the fact that Ernest Simpson, like Lord Furness, is engaged in shipping. Lady Furness is the former Thelma Morgan, beautiful twin sister of Mrs. Gloria Vanderbilt.

It was Lady Furness who introduced Mr. and Mrs. Simpson to the Prince of Wales. Soon Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, with Lord and Lady Furness, were invited to spend a week-end at Fort Belvidere, the royal week-end house near London.

The prince delighted in Mrs. Simpson's conversation, which is so sprightly and amusing—as unlike as possible to that of British officialdom. He discovered that her dancing is supremely good, and he has always had a fondness for dancing. They even liked the same one-steps—particularly "The Saint Louis Blues."

That first invitation to Fort Belvidere was followed by others, and presently the Simpsons were seen at the prince's table in fashionable restaurants in the West End of London. They were seen together at dinner parties, at night clubs, and in the royal box Covent Garden.

Mr. and Mrs. Simpson became definitely numbered in the prince's circle of close friends—a list that was not long. Included were the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, Lord and Lady Louise Mountbatten, the widower Lord Dudley, the widow Lady Cunard, the Honorable and Mrs. Evelyn Fitzgerald, A. Duff Cooper and his wife, Lady Diana Cooper, and Mr. and Mrs. Simpson.

Since his ascension to the throne, Edward VIII has maintained the same list of intimates. All are about the king's age. All are "middle-brows" instead of "high-brows," with the exception of Duff Cooper, minister of war in the British cabinet and recent biographer and defender of Lord Haig. Lord Louis Mountbatten is a kinsman of the king and Lady Mountbatten is one of the greatest heiresses in Britain. The Sutherlands have wealth and outstanding social eminence. So has Lord Dudley. Captain Fitzgerald, like Ernest Simpson, is a business man, comfortably well off, but not in the "big rich" class.

It was Mrs. Simpson's presence on the royal yacht *Nahlin*, on King Edward's holiday cruise of the Adriatic that set the match to current talk about her association with the king. Particularly, it was the number of newspaper photographs showing His Majesty in informal sport attire and, almost invariably, Mrs. Simpson nearby.

Ernest Simpson, it was explained, was detained in London on important business. He was not present, either, when Mrs. Simpson recently was a guest at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. The Court Circular stated simply that:

Mrs. Ernest A. Simpson and Mr. and Mrs. Herman I. Rogers have arrived at the castle.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers are Americans also. King Edward himself drove them to the castle. Mrs. Simpson on the front seat beside him.

Other guests at the castle were the king's brothers, the Duke of York and the Duke of Kent; the Duchess of York; the Duchess of Kent; the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough; the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland; the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry, and the Earl and Countess of Roseberry.

Such a guest list makes it clear that Mrs. Simpson—the daughter of the Baltimore boarding house-keeper who became a debutante and twice a bride—holds a place in British royal society that is eminently secure.

She will, it has been reported in the London weekly, *Cavalcade*, "live and entertain her friends until after King Edward's coronation next May at her new home, No. 16 Cumberland Terrace." The rent, \$130 a week for a period of seven months is said to have been paid in a single sum to the owner Mrs. Cuthbert B. Stewart, before her departure on a round-the-world tour.

Who, Baltimoreans are asking these days, among the old friends here will be first to receive a letter from Mrs. Simpson describing her new home and her stay at Balmoral Castle? Who will be first to see Mrs. Simpson's new drawing room where, doubtless, a king will often be entertained?

In Baltimore, now that Wallis Warfield Spencer Simpson has reached the top-most rung of the social ladder, there is keener interest than ever concerning her further adventures.

She has traveled an amazing distance from the boarding house on Biddle Street. What next?

THE END

Buckingham Palace Decorator Gives Advice To Home Owners

Elsie de Wolfe Has Practical Suggestions For Making House More Beautiful And Comfortable; Philosophy Expressed

Whether her home is a bungalow, an one-room apartment or a mansion, every woman wants to make it as attractive as possible. Elsie de Wolfe (Lady Mendil), chosen by King Edward VIII to redecorate Buckingham Palace, offers her expert advice to readers of The China Press in a series of articles. She will give practical, helpful suggestions of interest to homemakers everywhere.

IX - Elsie de Wolfe

I have always lived in enchanting houses. Probably when another woman would be dreaming of love affairs, I dream of delightful houses.

The principles of beauty do not change. Form, space, proportion, light, air, prospect, purpose, these are the problems with which they are concerned and they remain the same whether they are applied to the composition of a poem or a song or a painting or a cathedral.

Particularly is this true in the making of a home. The story of houses is the story of life. Just as the history of a country is written indelibly in its architecture, so is the history of individuals to be traced by the houses in which they have lived. There it all is their beginning, their growth, their development or depreciation, the realization or destruction of their dreams, the very pattern of their destiny as it was etched, line by line.

Consider Light, Air, Sunshine

The first important thing about one's house is its site. It must be accessible to one's self and one's friends. It must afford light, air and sunshine. It must be in keeping with one's way of living. Its price must be within one's means. It need not, necessarily, be in a fashionable neighborhood. There are always, if one has eyes to find them, little houses that may be made over easily, in little streets where one can have peace and quiet, light, air and a view, if it is only a garden in the backyard.

When I am asked to decorate a house, my first thought is suitability; my next thought is proportion. I always keep in mind the importance of simplicity. First, study the people who are to live in this house and, for the time being, I am really the chatelaine of the house. When I have thoroughly familiarized myself, I consider next the proportion of the house and its rooms.

We are sure to judge a woman in whose house we find ourselves for the first time, by her surroundings. We judge her temperament, her habits, her inclinations by the interior of her home. We may talk of the weather but we are looking at the furniture. We attribute vulgar qualities to those who are content to live in ugly surroundings. We endow with refinement and charm, the woman who welcomes us in a delightful room where colors blend and the proportions are as perfect as in a picture. After all, what other guarantee can there be of a woman's character, natural and cultivated, inherent and inherited, than taste? It is a compass that never errs; if a woman has taste, she may have faults, follies, fads, she may be as human and feminine as she pleases, but she will never cause a scandal!

Suitability Is Test

Why should we American women run after styles and periods of which we know nothing? Why should we not be content with fundamental things? The formal French room is very delightful in the proper place, but when it is unsuited to the people who must live in it, it is very bad indeed.

This is what I am always fighting in people's houses, the unsuitability of things. The foolish woman goes about from shop to shop and buys as her fancy directs. She sees something pretty and buys it, though it has no reference, either in form or color, to the scheme of her house. Haven't you been in rooms where there was a jumble of mission furniture, satinwood, fine old mahogany and gilt legged chairs? And it is the same with color. A woman says, "Oh, I love green. Let's have green," regardless of the exposure of her room and the furnishings she has already collected. And then, when she has treated each one of her rooms in a different color, and with a different floor covering, she wonders why she always is annoyed in going from one room to another.

Cool Tones For South Room

I would like to give you a few basic principles of interior decoration that I think might be of real assistance to you in the decorating of a home, small or large. Dull tones and cool colors are always good in south rooms, and alive tones and warm colors in north rooms. For instance, if you wish to keep your rooms in one color plan, you may have white woodwork in all of them and walls of varying shades of cream and yellow. Remember, above all things, that your walls must be beautiful in themselves. They must be plain and into beautiful spaces and covered with a soft cream paint, paper or grass-cloth, is good enough for any room. It may be broken with lighting fixtures and it is finished.

The cardinal virtue of all beauty is restraint. In no part in the making of a home is it more to be heeded than in furnishing the interior. Large furniture in small rooms belittles self-confidence. Geegaws all over the place are bound to stir up unrest. If for sentimental reasons, one may not want to be rid of them, they can be stored away for the future. A few good things, in their proper settings, and in friendly relationship to one another, are far more satisfying than a regiment of in-

quiet, ready to receive sincere things, but quite good enough to get along without pictures, if necessary. A wall that is broken

Decorating Buckingham Palace



Elsie De Wolfe

When King Edward VIII of England recently placed the redecoration of Buckingham Palace in the hands of Elsie de Wolfe it was a striking blow to precedent for a woman and an American to receive such a commission.

Yet it was in line with Elsie de Wolfe's achievements. Entering the decorating field at the turn of the century, she opened a new profession for women. She designed interiors for the Ogden Armour mansion, Lake Forest, Ill., the Weyerhaeuser house, Minneapolis, Minn.; the Henry Frick mansion, and Anne Morgan house in New York.

Elsie de Wolfe has been called the best dressed woman in the world by Paris style creators. As Lady Mendil, she is an internationally famous hostess. For her war work she received the Croix de Guerre and Legion of Honor from the French government.

consequentials which pick at nerves.

Choose Pictures Carefully

One cannot be too careful about pictures. Nothing is more conducive to unrest than amateur oil paintings, defacing the surface of what otherwise might be a pleasing wall space. A few well-chosen etchings, mellow prints, or good photographs, wisely and economically hung, are much less trying to the temperament.

Color should be treated kindly, but it should never be allowed to if you are inclined to a hasty temper. If you are inclined to a hasty temper, you should not live in a room where the prevailing note is red. On the other hand, a timid, delicate nature can often gain courage and poise by living in surroundings of rich red tones. Certain colors are antagonistic to each of us, and I think we should try to learn just which colors are most sympathetic to our own individual emotions and then make the best of them. If you are not sure that you appreciate color, if you feel that you, like your children, like the green rug with the red roses because it is "so cheerful," you may be sure that you should let color problems alone and furnish your house in neutral tones, depending upon book bindings, for your color.

I could go on indefinitely with my soliloquy on what to do, and what not to do, but space is limited

so I shall leave it to my next article to take-up with you the subject of "The Dining Room of Today." Later I shall write of the modern trend in interior decoration. The last article of the series, and one in which I think I can aptly illustrate the details of good interior decoration, will be a resume of interesting houses I have decorated for famous personages.

-N. E. A.

"The Most Talked-Of Woman In The World"



Mrs. Ernest Simpson, who went from a Baltimore boarding house to Balmoral, has become the most celebrated woman of this century. She is shown above as a war bride, when she married Lieut. Earl Winfield Spencer, Jr.

Mrs. Simpson's Social Rise Proves Sensation In London

End Of War-Time Romance Sets Stage For Dazzling Success Abroad; Whirl Of Brilliant Affairs Is Started

The days in her mother's boarding house put behind her, the charm and vivacity of debutante Wallis Warfield carried her into the merry whirls of Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia society. Then the world of romance and glamor suddenly were opened to her. It is of this exciting period in the life of "The Most Talked-of Woman in the World" that Laura Lou Brookman, novelist and NEA Service staff correspondent, writes in the third of four articles about Mrs. Ernest Simpson, confidante of King Edward VIII.

By LAURA LOU BROOKMAN
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 16.—He was a handsome young lieutenant. She was a vivacious society "deb." They met one night beneath Florida moonlight—a night when war-time excitement was in the air. She smiled and he noticed how blue her eyes were and that her lips were full and alluring. She looked away quickly, not unaware that, in his aviator's uniform, he was a dashing figure.

"Shall we dance?" the young lieutenant asked, and, as they moved away, older on-lookers commented on how well their steps matched in the fox trot.

Thus Wallis Warfield—today the famous Mrs. Ernest Simpson of London—met Lieut. Earl Winfield Spencer of Highland Park, Chicago.

It was in Pensacola, Fla., and the year was 1916. The blue-eyed Wallis had come to Florida to visit her cousin, Mrs. Henry Musteyn, whose husband was in the naval reserve. Lieutenant Spencer was in the naval service, too—an instructor at the Pensacola aviation school. Quite naturally the four went about together a good deal.

Wallis met other young officers, but found time, most often, to accept Lieutenant Spencer's invitations.

Thus, on a hot and dusty afternoon weeks later, a young man in the olive drab of a U. S. cavalryman paused in the shade of amesquite bush in the Mexican desert, mopped his brow and opened a letter he had just received. The letter, written by Wallis Warfield, told Carter G. Osburn, sweetheart

of her Baltimore schooldays, that Lieutenant Earl Spencer had asked her to marry him and she had accepted.

Osburn, who was serving with the U. S. forces in the expedition against Pancho Villa, tells about it now:

"It was about as hot a day as I've ever known—116 in the shade. A courier who had gone for the mail handed me that letter and, of course, I recognized Wallis' writing. I opened the letter and it under the circumstances anything would have been a blow. I can't recall, after all these years, just how much it added to my discomfort."

The engagement was announced by Wallis Warfield's mother, Mrs. John Freeman Rasm, Sept. 16, 1916, and a Baltimore newspaper chronicled the event as "an engagement of unusual interest to society."

There were showers and luncheons and dinners for the bride-to-be. For the first time in Wallis Warfield's life plans were made without thought of scrimping or saving. It wasn't to be a pretentious wedding but one that was as stately and beautiful as a girl could wish.

The ceremony took place at Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Nov. 8, 1916 at 6:20 p.m. The bride came down the aisle on the arm of her uncle, E. Davies Warfield. She wore a gown of white panne velvet made with a court train, the bodice elaborately embroidered in pearls and the skirt falling over a petticoat of old family lace.

After the ceremony there was a reception at the Stafford Hotel. Later Lieutenant Spencer and his bride set off for a honeymoon at White Sulphur Springs and Atlantic City.

It must have been, for a time, at least, a happy marriage. The Spencers remained at Pensacola that winter, and the next year went to California, where Lieutenant Spencer was sent to establish a naval flying school.

Those were exciting days, with the United States formally declaring a state of warfare and joining the Allies against Germany; with young men enrolling for service, swarming to camps and training schools; with bands playing, flags flying and parades marching; with Liberty Loan and Red Cross Roll Calls; with women volunteering to knit sweaters, roll bandages and pack "comfort kits."

Baltimore friends heard less and less of Mrs. Earl Spencer in the next few years. Relatives in Baltimore say the trouble between the Spencers arose because the Lieutenant had "a temper." However this may be, they did not get the information from Wallis who has never been one to air domestic affairs.

It was not until 1925 that an open rift came. Then, at Warrenton, Va., in compliance with the Virginia law requiring persons seeking a divorce to have lived within the state for one year Wallis Spencer established legal residence.

In July, 1927, the bill of complaint was filed, including depositions of several witnesses to show that, on June 19, 1922, Spencer deserted his wife and had contributed nothing to her support thereafter. An uncontested divorce was granted on these grounds.

Lieutenant Spencer is now Lieut. Commander Spencer, stationed at San Diego, Cal. He has been remarried and divorced.

Wallis Warfield Spencer continued to live in Virginia, at Warren Green Hall, in Warrenton. Reports of her affairs, until July, 1928, are hazy, but two facts are clear. She made a trip abroad with her aunt, Mrs. D. Buchanan Merryman of Washington, and she became acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Simpson of New York.

It was the former Mary Kirk of Baltimore, by this time Mrs. Jacques Raffray of New York, who introduced Wallis to the Simpsons. The same Mary Kirk who had gone to Arundel school with Wallis, who had made her debut the same night, and who had been a bridesmaid at Wallis' marriage to Lieutenant Spencer.

Ernest Simpson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Simpson of 59 West 86th street, New York, was employed by the ship-chartering firm Simpson, Spine and Young. His wife was the former Dorothea Parsons Dechert, a great granddaughter of a former Chief Justice of Massachusetts.

The Simpsons' marriage was destined to be short-lived. Business affairs took Ernest Simpson to London where, first as an attorney and then as a partner, he represented the ship-chartering firm of which today he and his father are sole controllers.

Wallis Spencer, in London with her aunt, met Ernest Simpson again. He was an ideal companion for dinner engagements and trips to the theater. Simpson is handsome—"far handsomer than King Edward VIII," says a Baltimorean who has met them both. Simpson today is 38 years old. As a Harvard undergraduate, in 1918, he had enlisted in the British Coldstream Guards and six months later received a second lieutenant's commission. Afterward he returned to Harvard and was graduated.

Some of those evenings in London must have been romantic. Ernest Simpson, though he had made up his mind to live permanently in England, evidently had nothing but admiration for the American divorce, Wallis Spencer. By the time she returned to America, there seem to have been definite plans in the air. At any rate, in June, 1928, she sailed again for Europe, this time alone.

On July 28, she and Simpson were married in London. It was, in contrast to that earlier bridal day in Baltimore, the quietest sort of wedding. No showers. No dinner parties. No reception. The bride was a stranger in London, with few acquaintances, few friends.

But presently Ernest Simpson found that his new wife was a distinct social success. There were little dinner parties in the modestly furnished London flat. Business friends at first. Soon the circle grew. Wallis Warfield Simpson, with her smart clothes and southern accent, was exactly the type that has always made good in London society.

The Simpsons began to go out to "first nights" and night clubs. The Simpsons met Michael Arlen met other writers, artists, actors and actresses. And if Mrs. Simpson outshone her husband at these Bohemian gatherings, wasn't that the American way?

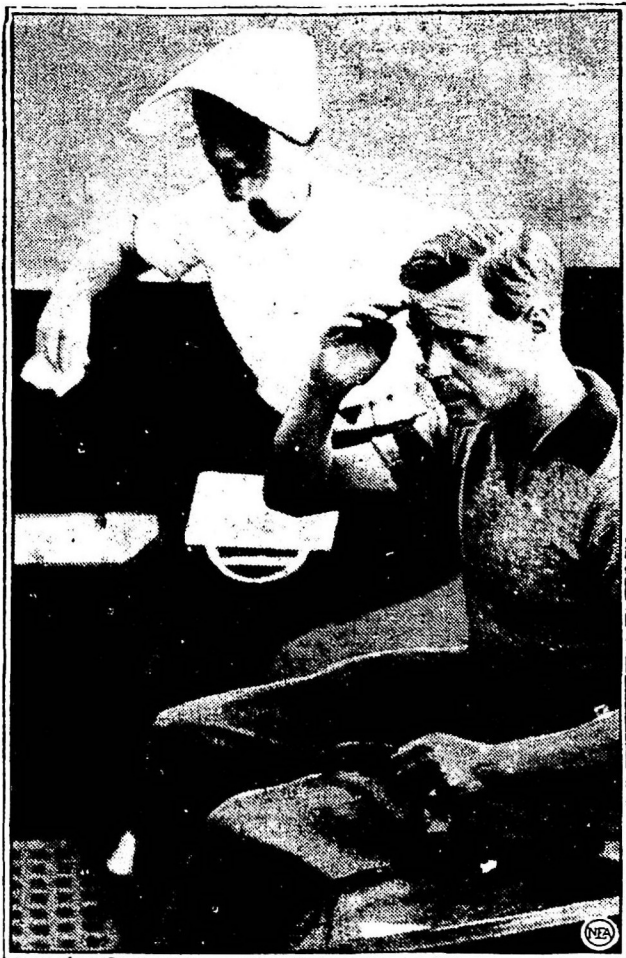
Ernest may have been tired after the hard day at the office, a bit bored, but he was always on hand. Wallis was never tired. No matter how late—or how early—the party lasted, she was ready to go on to a new place, to think up audacious new stunts. Londoners thought it was "so amusing" and "so American."

Wallis began to buy her gowns from Schiaparelli. Ernest rented the Bryanston Square apartment and she had it decorated by a fashionable Paris firm. Swiftly, surely the young Simpsons made the climb in London society leaping barriers that usually are unscalable.

How Wallis Warfield Spencer Simpson must have enjoyed these triumphs. She wouldn't have been human if she hadn't enjoyed them. But there was more—far more—to come!

TOMORROW: How Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Simpson met King Edward VIII, then the Prince of Wales.

The King And Mrs. Simpson



In 1914 there was no inkling that the paths of King Edward VIII and Mrs. Ernest Simpson, pictured together during a Mediterranean cruise, would cross. King Edward was in uniform with the British army in Flanders; she was debutante Wallis Warfield.

While Mrs. Simpson Made Her Debut, King On Western Front

Most Talked-Of Woman Traces Lineage To Noble Knight Pagan De Warfield In Days Of William The Conqueror

Mrs. Ernest Simpson . . . her friendship with King Edward VIII has made her "The Most Talked-of Woman in the World." So Laura Lou Brookman, novelist and staff correspondent of NEA Service, went to Baltimore to find out who Mrs. Simpson is, what her girlhood and background were like. She tells the story of the debhood of "the Yarkee at King Edward's Court" in this second of four articles.

By LAURA LOU BROOKMAN
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 16.—A pale, boyish-looking English officer, newly arrived in the north of France war zone, signed a letter to his mother, sealed it and handed it to an orderly who saluted smartly, recognizing H. R. M., the Prince of Wales . . .

Three thousand miles away newspaper headlines screamed, "GERMAN CRUISER FLEET DESTROYED—THREE SHIPS SUNK—ADMIRAL AND 2000 MEN LOST." . . . President Wilson consulted with Ambassador Herrick, home from France . . . Assistant Secretary F. D. Roosevelt appeared before a Congressional committee to testify on the strength of the navy . . . Women suffragists

paraded in Chicago . . . The Supreme Court was considering the case of Harry Thaw . . . Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle were dancing at the New Amsterdam Theater in New York . . . Thirty-five carloads of food were stowed on ships to be transported from the United States to homeless Belgians . . .

And in Baltimore, Md., a slender, dark-haired, 18-year-old girl smiled and bowed prettily, attending her first real party.

It was war-riddled December, 1914, when Wallis Warfield—today Mrs. Ernest Simpson of London—made her debut at the Bachelor's Cotillion, famous in Baltimore traditions. Today Mrs. Simpson's shopping trips, the parties she gives and those to which she goes are of world-wide interest. Mrs. Simpson's name, appearing in the British Court Circular, exclusive journal of the most exclusive society in the world, starts ripples of excitement reaching from London to Shanghai and Sidney.

How different from that night, Dec. 7, 1914!

Baltimore's Lyric Theater, banked with palms and potted plants, had become, according to a newspaper report, "a bower of beauty where

light and color mingled to form almost a tropical atmosphere of warmth and fullness of life." Forty-nine debutantes were there to make their bows. Forty-nine young girls, each wearing a new dress and carrying flowers, tried to look serene and calm, aware the event was the most important, to date, of their brief lives.

The band struck up a popular new number, "I Want to Be Back in Michigan." Miss Wallis Warfield, resplendent in white satin, chiffon and pearl embroidery, was whirled into the dancer on the arm of her uncle, Major-General George Barnett of the U. S. Marine Corps.

It must have been a night to stir girlish hearts—particularly the heart of Wallis Warfield.

She hadn't had the long list of entertainments in her honor that most of the other debutantes had had. She had gone to some of her affairs—not nearly as many as some of the other girls.

When Wallis Warfield, along with 33 other debutantes, signed an agreement to "refrain from extravagance in entertaining," due to the war conditions abroad, there had been those to sniff knowingly and hint that Wallis had more than one reason for signing such a pledge. After all, her mother had kept that boarding house on Biddle Street!

Mrs. Warfield, by this time Mrs. John Freeman Rasin, Jr., was no longer taking "paying guests" in her home. She had, in 1908, married John Freeman Rasin, Jr.,

who died two years later.

Widowed a second time, Mrs. Rasin continued her efforts to give her daughter the advantages which surely were due a girl who could trace her ancestry back to Noble Knight Pagan de Warfield, numbered in the forces of William the Conqueror when he crossed the Channel in 1066—to say nothing of being a cousin of the late Edward Warfield, Governor of Maryland, and, on her mother's side of the family, related to Governor Montague of Virginia.

It was Wallis' wealthy uncle, the late S. Davies Warfield, President of the Seaboard Airline Railroad, who made it possible for her to attend Arundel school. The school, no longer in existence, overlooked aristocratic Mount Vernon Place. Wallis went there four years and, while she wasn't particularly interested in sports, did play on the basketball team.

One of her classmates was Mary Kirk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Kirk, Jr. Mary Kirk made her bow in society the same night as Wallis Warfield. Later she was to be one of the bridesmaids at Wallis' wedding. Today, as Mrs. Jacques Raffray of New York, she denies emphatically that, in the event of a divorce between Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, she (Mrs. Raffray) will march to the altar with Ernest Simpson.

"There is not a word of truth in it," says Mrs. Raffray who returned only a few days ago from London where she visited Mrs. Simpson at her Bryanston Square apartment.

Point seemed to be added to the rumor of a possible romance by the fact that Mrs. Raffray is separated from her husband, living at 780 Madison Avenue, while he occupies an apartment down the street at 673.

But there will be no divorce, says Mrs. Raffray, denying that Ernest Simpson is on his way to the United States or has any intention of returning.

Back in the Baltimore days of 1914, a page of Wallis Warfield's diary (if there had been a diary) would have read something like this:

Monday—Luncheon at the Stafford for Augusta Eareckson, given by her mother, Mrs. W. R. Eareckson.

Wednesday Afternoon — Oyster roast at 1 p.m. at Albert Graham Oger's country place in the Green Spring Valley for his niece.

Wednesday night—Mr. and Mrs. Frederick B. Beacham's party for Priscilla at Lehmann Hall.

Thursday — Luncheon at the Baltimore Country Club for Mary Kirk given by her mother.

Saturday—Trip to Norfolk, Va., to spend the week-end with Mrs. Floyd and Hughes.

Wallis Warfield was at the Lyric Theater the night a fashionable audience, gathered to see Anna Pavlova dance, burst into "ahs" and "chs" as Harry Lehr, believed to be in Paris, strolled down the aisle, creating more of a sensation than the Russian ballerina on the stage.

After the holidays, the social rush died away. Wallis Warfield and six other girls planned a party to break the dullness. The invitations issued

form the only unconventional note in the hitherto strictly conventional pattern of that debutante year.

The invitations read:

"A hen committee requests the pleasure of your company at a hen dance to be given on the evening of January 8 at 9 o'clock at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Clark, 1118 North Charles St."

There were other cotillions, other parties. During the two years fol-

lowing her debut, Wallis Warfield spent almost as much time in Washington and Philadelphia as she did in Baltimore. She went to Annapolis to football games and dances. Each year she attended the annual ball given by Major-General Earnett and Mrs. Barnett at their country estate, Wakefield Manor, near Washington. Mrs. Barnett was Wallis' mother's cousin. Sometimes Wallis went to parties given by another cousin of her mother,

Mrs. Alexander Brown of Baltimore whose daughter married T. Sufferin Tallar.

Other girls who "came out" in 1914 announced engagements, sent out invitations for their weddings. Wallis remained "Miss Warfield."

And then, early in 1916, she went to Florida to visit Mrs. Henry Musteyn, whose husband was in the naval service at Pensacola. There Wallis Warfield met Lieut. Earl Winfield Spencer, Jr., of Chi-

cago, handsome, indeed, in the uniform of a naval aviator.

Wholeheartedly, ecstatically Wallis fell in love!

TOMORROW: Marriage and divorce—another chapter in the life of Wallis Warfield, Baltimore girl who became "the most talked-of woman in the world."

There are only about 40,000 Eskimos in the entire Arctic region

"Yankee In King Edward's Court"



When the former Wallis Warfield, now Mrs. Ernest Simpson, posed for the portrait at left, she was a young Baltimore society belle without any thought that she ever would be in a position to take the arm of King Edward of England, as she is pictured doing above. Her rise to royal favor has also been attended by a dramatic change in abode. In Baltimore, she once made her home with her mother in a brownstone house operated as a boarding house. In London, as the wife of Capt. Ernest Simpson, she lives amidst exquisite furnishings and frequently is hostess to King Edward.

Baltimore Recalls Confidante Of Edward VIII As Debutante

Home Of Mrs. Simpson, Most Talked-Of
Woman In The World, Once A
Boarding House

"The Princess of Wales" they sometimes called her. That was when her companionship with the heir to Britain's throne first attracted attention. Now Mrs. Ernest Simpson has become "the Yankee at King Edward's court"—and, consequently, the most talked-of woman in the world . . . "Who is Mrs. Simpson?" . . . Laura Lou Brookman, author and staff correspondent for NEA Service, went to Mrs. Simpson's home city of Baltimore, Md., to find out and to report her interesting findings in a series of articles written for this newspaper. The first article appears below.

By LAURA LOU BROOKMAN
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 14.—If Bessie Wallis Warfield Spencer Simpson kept a diary in the days when Baltimore was her home town and before she had ever even dreamed of the international spotlight now centering upon her, or of attending elite social functions in London and Paris on the arm of a King, these dates must, surely, have been red-lettered in that diary:

Dec. 7, 1914, when she was presented to society at the Bachelor's Cotillion.

Sept. 16, 1916, when her engagement to Lieut. El. Winfield Spencer, Jr., U. S. N., was announced.

Nov. 8, 1916, when, for the first time, she became a bride.

That wedding day, with the tall, slender, dark-haired, blue-eyed Wallis in a gown of white panne velvet, made with a "court" train, wearing a veil of tulle and carrying white orchids, must have seemed a story-book ending for the girl who, until then, had had little, indeed, of the world's good things.

She was the daughter of a clerk and of a young wife who had beauty, impressive family connections—and practically no money.

Before her third birthday, Bessie Wallis was fatherless.

She grew up in the boarding house operated by her mother; operated genteelly, but still a boarding house.

As a young girl, she knew, if not poverty, the distinctly unpleasant status of a "poor relation" and the persistence of bill collectors.

Bessie Wallis Warfield married E. Winfield Spencer, Jr., in fashionable Christ Episcopal Church, amid palms and white chrysanthemums and before a candle-lit altar, but the young couple did not "live happily ever after."

Instead, the bride was destined to be labelled, legally, a "deserted wife."

She was to pass through the divorce courts, to know the scourge of gossiping tongues.

She was, later, to remarry, to enter the gayest, most brilliant social circles of London, Paris, Biarritz, Cannes and St. Moritz, to be seen more and more frequently in the presence of royalty and, within the last few weeks, to blossom forth as the most talked-of woman in the world.

An amazing story . . . more unbelievable, more fantastic than an ancient Horatio Alger epic entitled, "From Rags to Riches," is the present-day, real life drama of newspaper headlines, photographs and European statecraft, "From Boarding House to Barmoral."

It all began 40 years ago—The T. Wallis Warfield's daughter, a first and only child, was born at the home of her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Henri M. Warfield, in Baltimore.

The parents—particularly the father—had wanted a boy. Refusing to sacrifice completely his dreams of a son to carry on his name, T. Wallis Warfield decided the baby should be named "Wallis" for himself and "Bessie" for her aunt, Mrs. D. Buchanan Merryman of Washington, nee Bessie Montague.

The child was so christened and, from that day to this, Bessie Wallis Simpson has had no stauncher, closer friend than Mrs. Merryman.

It was she who accompanied her niece on her first trip to Europe. It was she who comforted Wallis after the death of her mother in 1929. It was Mrs. Merryman who chaperoned Mrs. Simpson on many of the European holiday trips when she was among the guests of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, now King Edward VIII of England.

Today Mrs. Merryman scouts rumors that Mr. and Mrs. Simpson are contemplating divorce, is "distressed" by newspaper notoriety attending her niece's recent visit at Balmoral Castle and her presence with other guests, on the royal yacht Nahlin on the King's recent Mediterranean holiday.

"The talk of divorce," Mrs. Merryman told me, "is nothing whatever but gossip, invented and spread by people who delight in scandal. It is simply not true. I feel that I cannot stand to see another

of it—so unjust, so unkind—until!"

Merryman's attitude of concern is quite in contrast with that of the famous Mrs. Simpson herself when a fellow townsman of hers called on her in London last summer.

"How are you?" Mrs. Simpson asked pleasantly.

"I'm right, Wallis. You're doing well, too, aren't you?" "Yes," Mrs. Simpson laughed. "I think I've done badly at it."

"You really like to hear from her friends and is always cordial. I remember one day last summer, recalled occasions when one of her chief concerns was a certain department store's bills."

"I think," she said, "that perhaps if I went back to Baltimore I could get a store to give me a pair of shoes, don't you?"

"I can't cry from shoe bills. It is the current report that Londoners already are at work on a pair made of 18 silver fox skins—extremely rare quality and extremely high price which Mrs. Simpson will wear at the coronation ceremonies next year."

The King's deep friendship for the boarding house keeper's daughter is attested by a Baltimore man who has known Mrs. Simpson since childhood, met her at Biarritz a year ago and had tea with her. King Edward VIII, then Prince of Wales, also was present.

Whenever Wallis speaks," says a traveler, "he seems to be simultaneously enthralled. He hangs on every word she says, roars at anything it is amusing—and Wallis is very amusing. His eyes and manner give the impression that there is no one else in the room."

These close friends who know Wallis Simpson well, who have visited her London apartment, dined with her at Cannes and in Switzerland, take no stock whatever in rumors that Ernest Simpson will seek to sever the bonds of his marriage.

On the contrary, they insist that His Majesty, Edward VIII, has a deep friendship for Simpson and that, as a measure of this esteem, they look to see the American lighted.

"That," pointed out one of Wallis's friends, with a toss of her head, "would make her Lady Carter G. Osburn, a beau of her

school days who now is selling automobiles, considers this prospect, smiling.

"Wallis wasn't socially ambitious when she was a girl," he says. "She was too independent for that. But I think she is superbly fitted for a career as an international hostess—clever, tactful, sympathetic. Of course, I always thought she was about perfect, and I'm sure she has become a completely charming woman."

Another loyal friend of Wallis Simpson is Mrs. John Sadler of Cockeysville, Md., the former Emily McLane Merryman. Distantly related, they went to Arundel school together. Mrs. Sadler made her bow in society the same night as Mrs. Simpson. She was one of the bridesmaids when Wallis married her first husband, Earl Winfield Spencer, Jr.

Proudly Mrs. Sadler displays the slender gold bracelet on her wrist—one of those the bride gave to each of her six bridesmaids.

"I haven't seen Wallis in years," Mrs. Sadler says, "but we've always been friends and I've always admired her."

"As long as I live I'll never forget the dress she wore the night of the Bachelor's Cotillion, the

night we were presented. It was white satin with an overskirt of chiffon and wide bands of pearl embroidery around the bottom. The rest of us wore simple little things, but Wallis's dress was really stunning."

"I certainly wish I still had my bridesmaid's dress. Wallis designed her wedding gown and our dresses, too. She always wore clothes well and she had a lovely figure."

As for beauty, Dr. Frederick Taylor, a friend of the family for years, says, "All of her features are good, yet, put together, they do not make beauty. The effect is rather that of a sparkling personality and good nature—more intriguing than beauty. Wallis is like her mother in this respect."

TOMORROW: Wallis Warfield's debutante days.

October 19, 1936.

Afternoon Translation.

Shun Pao and other local newspapers :-

KING OF ENGLAND DOES NOT WISH OTHERS TO INTERFERE WITH HIS
RELATIONS WITH MRS. SIMPSON.Advice of Political and Religious Leaders Meets
With His Anger.Will He Give Up His Throne For The Sake Of A Woman?

London, October 17.

According to information from Court circles to-day, King Edward VIII is angry at the interference by political and religious leaders with his friendly relations with Mrs. Simpson, his holiday companion. It is said that the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mr. Baldwin, the Prime Minister, recently paid an informal visit to Buckingham Palace to beseech the King to be discreet about his relations with Mrs. Simpson. The King was very angry at their interference with his private affairs, although he did not give any outward indication of his feelings. His lips trembled slightly. He requested the Archbishop and the Prime Minister not to meddle in the affairs of other people.

Mrs. Simpson is the wife of a London stock broker. It is said that she is seeking a divorce. However, the people of London seem to be unaware of what has been going on because nothing about it has been published in the newspapers. If the affair proves to be well founded, it will give rise to a violent reaction on the part of the people. Therefore, the Court officials are very uneasy.

According to information given out by a certain person connected with the Court, the King recently received from the people letters criticising the frequent visits paid by Mrs. Simpson to the Palace. Owing to the censorship, the Press is unable to publish matters indicating the King's desire to give up the various traditions of the Victorian Royal Family. Many rumours are current and it is possible that the affair will become public in the near future. (Kuo Min).

London, October 17.

A number of British people to-day believe that King Edward VIII may abdicate in favour of his brother, the Duke of York, and retire to the life of a happy country gentleman. Court circles declare that such a belief is absolutely groundless, yet the following reasons tend to lend support to such a belief :-

(1) King Edward VIII does not like the responsibilities of a King.

(2) He deeply detests interference with his friendly relations with Mrs. Simpson by leaders of the religious and conservative parties.

(3) The King has a strong will and it becomes stronger whenever he is opposed.

3.
October 19, 1936.

Afternoon Translation.

Although the newspapers to-day are still reticent over the question of the divorce of the Simpson couple, rumours are very prevalent. The King will leave his Palace to-day to attend a week-end holiday party. The venue is not known nor is it known whether Mrs. Simpson will accompany him. The public are talking about the friendly relations between this beautiful American woman and the King, but nobody has approached either the King or the lady to ask them whether they contemplate marrying each other. Furthermore, there is no evidence at all to show that either party has considered this matter. This point is worthy of attention. (Kuo Min).

London, October 17.

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Hollywood, October 17.

Recently the Universal Motion Picture Company approached Mrs. Simpson, an intimate friend of the British Crown, to sign a film contract. To-day the company received a telegraphic reply from Mrs. Simpson's secretary stating that Mrs. Simpson is at present not in London and that he cannot give a reply until she comes back to London.

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October 19, 1936.

Afternoon Translation.

Shun Pao and other local newspapers :-

KING OF ENGLAND DOES NOT WISH OTHERS TO INTERFERE WITH HIS
RELATIONS WITH MRS. SIMPSON.

Advice of Political and Religious Leaders Meets
With His Anger.

Will He Give Up His Throne For The Sake Of A Woman?

London, October 17.

According to information from Court circles to-day, King Edward VIII is angry at the interference by political and religious leaders with his friendly relations with Mrs. Simpson, his holiday companion. It is said that the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mr. Baldwin, the Prime Minister, recently paid an informal visit to Buckingham Palace to beseech the King to be discreet about his relations with Mrs. Simpson. The King was very angry at their interference with his private affairs, although he did not give any outward indication of his feelings. His lips trembled slightly. He requested the Archbishop and the Prime Minister not to meddle in the affairs of other people.

Mrs. Simpson is the wife of a London stock broker. It is said that she is seeking a divorce. However, the people of London seem to be unaware of what has been going on because nothing about it has been published in the newspapers. If the affair proves to be well founded, it will give rise to a violent reaction on the part of the people. Therefore, the Court officials are very uneasy.

According to information given out by a certain person connected with the Court, the King recently received from the people letters criticising the frequent visits paid by Mrs. Simpson to the Palace. Owing to the censorship, the Press is unable to publish matters indicating the King's desire to give up the various traditions of the Victorian Royal Family. Many rumours are current and it is possible that the affair will become public in the near future. (Kuo Min).

London, October 17.

A number of British people to-day believe that King Edward VIII may abdicate in favour of his brother, the Duke of York, and retire to the life of a happy country gentleman. Court circles declare that such a belief is absolutely groundless, yet the following reasons tend to lend support to such a belief :-

(1) King Edward VIII does not like the responsibilities of a King.

(2) He deeply detests interference with his friendly relations with Mrs. Simpson by leaders of the religious and conservative parties.

(3) The King has a strong will and it becomes stronger whenever he is opposed.

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MRS. E. SIMPSON WILL STAY IN CANNES

Disposal Of Her London
Residence Reason For
"Mystery Hop"

FUTURE INTENTIONS NOT DISCLOSED

CANNES, Dec. 9.—An announcement of Mrs. Ernest Simpson's intention to remain in Cannes over Christmas was made last night by Lord Brownlow, Lord-in-Waiting to the King, following the arrival in Marseilles of a "mystery plane," with three passengers, which had left Croydon in the morning.

Lord Brownlow stated that Mrs. Simpson's solicitor, who had arrived in Marseilles by air, was coming to Cannes, at his own suggestion, to discuss details concerning the disposal of Mrs. Simpson's town house, as she had "no intention of returning to London for a considerable time."

Mrs. Simpson, he added, was keeping well.

Much speculation concerning the identity of the three passengers and the purpose of their visit to Cannes was let loose when the "mystery plane" bearing them departed from London.

The machine, whose departure from Le Bourget, the first stopping-place, had been delayed for an hour, proceeded to Lyons, where, after being refuelled, it departed for Marseilles.

At Marseilles the three passengers disembarked, had dinner at a hotel and left by car at 7.46 p.m. for Cannes, 90 miles away by road.

It was only then learnt that they were Mr. Theodore Goddard, Mrs. Simpson's solicitor, a clerk and Dr. Kirkwood, a specialist.

Explaining their visit, Lord Brownlow said that Dr. Kirkwood was simply a friend of Mr. Goddard, who was very unwell at the moment and was unwilling to travel without a doctor.

The passengers, immediately after their arrival, went to a hotel.—
Reuter.

Dr. Kirkwood Returning

MARSEILLES, Dec. 9.—Dr. Kirkwood arrived here to-day on his way back to England from Cannes.—
Reuter.

KING'S DECISION AWAITED

Abdication Of King Would Be Big Blow

England And Dominions
Would Be Plunged In
Deep Sadness

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP OF HIS MAJESTY

British Press Confident That
Worst Feature Of Crisis
Has Passed

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Further comment on the constitutional crisis appears in the British newspapers to-day.

The more one considers the consequences which would follow from a decision which entailed the King's abdication, the more one realizes the sadness in which this country and the Dominions would be plunged, says the "Daily Telegraph."

The King has a magnetic quality of personal leadership, and the Dominions and India have been eagerly looking forward to welcoming him once more among them, this time as their Sovereign. If the whole programme had to be changed, the adjusting task would everywhere be undertaken with great reluctance.

"We are convinced," the "Daily Telegraph" continues, "that the general feeling throughout the Empire will be one of profound relief and thankfulness if the King's decision proves to be in accordance with the general desire, while the King's Ministers, who have felt bound by their sense of moral and political duty to refuse his request, will rejoice most of all."

The "Daily Mail" says that Mrs. Simpson's proffered abandonment of "any action or proposal that would hurt or damage His Majesty or the Throne" changes the whole position. It opens hope for a speedy end to this grave, disquieting crisis.

Mrs. Simpson, the journal adds, renders it possible for the King to continue upon the Throne, and thus relieve the country and the Empire of the heart-breaking loss which his abdication would involve.

"We can rejoice," says the "Daily Express," "The crisis has passed into history, and the King is still with us. No question of the Crown overriding the Cabinet has arisen, nor have the Ministers imposed surrender upon the King on this highly personal issue."

Advice Of Ministers

"The Times," in a leader, declares that the King has proposed a certain course of action and has been advised, in constitutional form, that it is impracticable. There is no reason to doubt that he has accepted this advice.

In extreme cases where the Sovereign doubts the authority of public opinion behind his Ministers and Parliament, the Constitution provides him with means to appeal, but this is clearly not such a case, and there is no indication that His Majesty supposes it to be so.

The plan for a morganatic marriage has, therefore, been abandoned, adds "The Times," and what the King has been considering is whether to take any other form of action.

For His Majesty to take no action, "The Times" declares, is to acquiesce in the failure of what is known to be his heart's desire, but, on the other hand, no positive action has been suggested except one from which the whole Empire shrinks.

To urge the second alternative by direct or indirect persuasion is a course that no constitutional Cabinet could have any excuse for taking, and it has not been done.

All a minister can do is to answer such questions as the King may put to him in order that His Majesty may have the fullest possible understanding of the nature of the consequences of any action that he may choose to take.—Reuter.

Rumours Regarding Danish Estate

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 9.—Sir Charles Lampe, chamberlain to King Edward VIII, during the course of a trip here last week visited many estates that were for sale, the "Social Demokraten" reports.

The Journal suggests that the King might contemplate settling in Denmark in case of abdication.—Havas.

BROTHER COMMENDED TO NATION

"I am deeply sensible of the consideration which they have always extended to me both before and after my accession to the Throne, and which I know they will extend in full measure to my successor.

"I am most anxious that there should be no delay in giving effect to the Instrument which I have executed, and that all the necessary steps should be taken immediately to secure that my lawful successor, my brother, His Royal Highness the Duke of York, should ascend the Throne."

TENSE, PACKED HOUSE

The scene in the House was illuminated by the mellow light of electric lamps, which had been turned on because the fog outside blanketed the daylight.

Never has the House been so full as it was to-day.

All the benches were packed when the session was opened with the exception of the places of Mr. Baldwin, Mr. C. R. Attlee, leader of the Labour Opposition, and Sir Archibald Sinclair, the Liberal leader, who all arrived later.

The Peers, Diplomatic and Dominion galleries were likewise full, and many persons were unable to obtain admission.

Fifty questions were asked and quickly answered, most of them inaudible amid the excited hum of a tense audience. Members heard the questions listlessly and impatiently, restively awaiting Mr. Baldwin's announcement.

Historic Occasion

All were obviously conscious of the gravity of the most historic parliamentary occasion since the outbreak of the Great War.

As the murky daylight of a foggy December day faded, the lights in the House were switched on, throwing into greater relief the sombreness of the scene.

Nearly everyone, including women, wore black, which matched the sadness of their thoughts.

Mr. Baldwin arrived at 3.35 p.m., and was greeted with a restrained, but wholehearted cheer.

The Prime Minister sat forward uneasily in his chair, shuffling papers in his hand and whispering with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Lord President of the Council, and the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, who sat on either side of him.

Mr. Baldwin was very pale. He wore a short black coat, striped trousers and a black tie.

Questions terminated at 3.30 p.m. and, at 3.42 p.m., Mr. Baldwin rose, slowly walked to the Bar of the House and announced that he had a message from King Edward signed in his own hand.

He then handed the message to the Speaker, who read it out in a grave voice.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

After King Edward's message had been read, Mr. Baldwin made a statement.

"I have to move," he said, "that His Majesty's most gracious message be now considered.

"No graver message has ever been received by Parliament, and no more difficult—I may almost say repugnant—task has ever been imposed upon a Prime Minister. — (Cheers).

"I would ask the House, which I know will not be without sympathy for me in my position to-day—(renewed sympathetic cheers)—to remember that in this last week I have had but little time in which to compose a speech for delivery, so I must tell what I have to tell, truthfully, sincerely and plainly, with no attempt to dress up or at adornment.

No Praise Or Blame

"I shall have little or nothing to say in the way of comment, or any criticism or praise or blame.

"I think my best course is to tell, so far as I can, what has passed between His Majesty and myself and what has led up to the present situation.

"I would like to say, at the start, that His Majesty, as Prince of Wales, honoured me for many years with a friendship which I value.

"I know he would agree with me in saying to you that it was not only a friendship between man and man, but friendship and affection.

Friendship Unimpaired

"I would like to tell the House that when we said good-bye on Tuesday night at Fort Belvedere we both felt, and said to each other, that our friendship had so far been unimpaired, and that our discussions in these last few weeks had bound us more closely together than they ever did, and would last for life.—(Cheers).

First Interview With King

Describing how he had his first interview with King Edward, Mr. Baldwin said that after his own holiday in October he had been disquieted by the vast volume of correspondence coming in from British subjects in America, and also from the Dominions, expressing perturbation over what was appearing in the American press.

He was also aware that a divorce case was approaching the results of which threatened a difficult situation. Without consulting his colleagues, he saw the King privately on October 20 and spoke to him of the difficult situation that would arise if gossip and criticism continued.

"The King's attitude throughout," Mr. Baldwin continued, "has been

such that he has never shown a sign of offence or hurt at anything I said to him."

He reminded the King that, while the British Crown had been deprived of many prerogatives through the centuries, it stood to-day for far more than ever in history—(cheers)—and once respect for the Crown was lost he doubted whether anything would ever restore it.

He repeatedly told the King "You and I must settle this matter together," and pointed out the dangers of the divorce proceeding.

Second Admonition

Mr. Baldwin next saw the King on November 18, after the decree nisi had been pronounced, and told him that a particular marriage would not receive the approbation of the country.

"The King," Mr. Baldwin proceeded, "said he had been wanting to tell me something for a long time, namely: 'I am going to marry Mrs. Simpson, and I am prepared to go'."

Meanwhile a compromise was suggested—that Parliament pass an Act enabling the lady to be the King's wife without the position of Queen.

He, Mr. Baldwin, had expressed the opinion that Parliament would never pass such legislation, but had told the King that he would consult the Cabinet.

Enquiries showed that there was no prospect of such legislation being accepted by Great Britain and the Dominions. When informed of this, the King was not surprised, and did not refer to the matter again.

Behaved Like A Gentleman

"He behaved," said Mr. Baldwin, "as a gentleman," and insisted that he would not allow a situation to arise in which he could not go with dignity. The idea of a so-called "King's Party" was abhorrent to His Majesty.—(Loud cheers.)

Mr. Baldwin read a pencilled note received from King Edward this morning stating that he was confident the Duke of York deserved and would receive the support of the whole Empire.—(Loud cheers).

The Prime Minister emphasised that his efforts in the past days had been directed towards trying

to help the King make a choice which he had not made.

Yesterday morning, when the King had made a final decision, the Cabinet unanimously appealed to him to reconsider a step which would cause deep distress to his subjects. The King regretted that he was unable to alter his decision.

Mr. Baldwin's voice sank to a whisper at the conclusion of his speech. "Let us," he said, "conduct ourselves with the dignity which the King is showing, and let us rally behind the new King."—(Prolonged cheers).

Bill Of Abdication

After a brief, sympathetic statement by Mr. C. R. Attlee, the House adjourned till 6 o'clock this afternoon for consideration of a Bill of Abdication.

This will pass the remaining stages in both Houses to-morrow, and King Edward will sign the Abdication Act to-morrow night.

The Accession Council will meet on Saturday morning, and the new King will be proclaimed on Saturday afternoon.

All the Dominions except the Irish Free State have agreed to the enactment of the necessary legislation.

Mr. Eamon de Valera, president of the Executive Council, announced to-day that the Dail would meet to-morrow, as the question affected the Irish Free State.—Reuter.

Ovation For Premier

LONDON, Dec. 10.—Police cleared Downing Street as the time approached for the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, to leave No. 10, his official residence, to make his momentous statement in the House of Commons on King Edward's abdication.

An army of cameramen took photographs of Mr. Baldwin as he left.

The first people to see him led an outburst of cheering which increased into a great ovation as his car progressed to Parliament. Men waved their hats and women flurried their handkerchiefs.

There were one or two outbursts of booing, but these were swamped in the roars of cheers.

The crowd was so great outside Buckingham Palace that the roadway became impassable, and police reinforcements had to be called up to keep people on the move.

Queen Mary was given loud cheers on her arrival at the Duke of York's house in Piccadilly at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Tension In Whitehall

An atmosphere of acute tension prevailed in Whitehall all day to-day.

The Speaker, Captain E. A. Fitzroy, took his seat in the House of Commons at 2.45 p.m., and Mr. Baldwin began his momentous announcement after questions had been disposed of.

There was a constant stream of telegraph and departmental messages this morning to No. 10 Downing Street, where crowds gathered. Newspaper vendors had an exceptionally busy day, every edition being snapped up by an eager public anxious to learn the latest developments.

The anxiety of the people was reflected in the faces of the King's brothers, the Dukes of York, Gloucester and Kent, who, all looking pale, arrived separately at Fort Belvedere at about 9.45 this morning, each driving his own car.

Early this morning two motorcycle despatch riders arrived at Fort Belvedere from No. 10 Downing Street bearing sealed cases believed to contain important documents for King Edward. They had left Downing Street an hour before, when members of Mr. Baldwin's staff assisted one of them to secure to his machine a black tin box, to which was affixed a great red seal.

Mr. Walter Mockton, k.c., Attorney-General to the Duchy of Cornwall, and Sir Edward Peacock, Receiver-General to the Duchy, left

Fort Belvedere for London at 10.20 a.m.

Sir John Simon, the Home Secretary, arrived at No. 10 Downing Street at 10.35 this morning, followed soon afterwards by Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Secretary of State for the Dominions.

Last-Minute Conferences

Later Sir John motored to Fort Belvedere, being the only member of the Cabinet, apart from Mr. Baldwin, to see the King since the crisis developed.

The morning was characterized by hectic last-moment conferences and hasty comings and goings in which Mr. Baldwin, Sir John Simon, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Mr. Monckton and Sir Edward Peacock were prominent.

Public reaction, on the other hand, was almost invisible despite the shock caused by the sudden change in the situation last night which the morning newspapers interpreted as meaning inevitable abdication.

Large contingents of police were brought to Westminster early in the morning from outlying divisions as a precautionary measure to deal with any crowds which may have endeavoured to congregate near the House of Commons.

Police Precautions

The police precautions in the region of Scotland Yard appeared disproportionate to the probable needs. Buses with reinforcements from the suburbs disgorged foot and mounted police, and vans equipped with loud-speakers were lined up.

Activity in Whitehall over the crisis continued late into Wednesday night.

All the lights on the ground floor at No. 10 Downing Street were still burning at 2 a.m. to-day when a member of Mr. Baldwin's staff, bearing a sheaf of documents, crossed to the Colonial Office.

Long after midnight messengers were constantly going to and from the Colonial Office, where Sir Thomas Inskip, Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence, who is one of the Government's chief legal advisers, remained until eight minutes past two.—*Reuter*.

1-912

Personal Message Read Before Crowded House Of Commons Yesterday

FINAL AND IRREVOCABLE DECISION IS
ANNOUNCED IN POIGNANT PLEA FOR
HIS PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING

CAN NO LONGER DISCHARGE HEAVY TASK
WITH EFFICIENCY OR SATISFACTION

Duke Of York Named As Successor By King, Who
Commends Him To Nation; Most Historic
Parliamentary Occasion In Decades

LONDON, Dec. 10.—King Edward VIII announced his abdication in a message read to the House of Commons this afternoon. He is to renounce all his titles and become plain "Mr. Windsor." Possibly he will receive a Dukedom later.

He is succeeded by his brother, the Duke of York, who, although he was formerly known as Prince Albert, may choose the title of George VI, taking the last of his four names.

So ended the constitutional crisis which last week plunged the British Empire into doubt and suspense.

The King's message, which was read by the Speaker, Mr. E. A. Fitzroy, in an atmosphere of the utmost tension, was:—

"After long and anxious consideration, I am determined to renounce the Throne to which I succeeded on the death of my father, and I am now communicating this my final, irrevocable decision.

"Realizing as I do the gravity of this step, I can only hope that I shall have the understanding of my peoples in the decision I have taken and the reasons which have led me to take it.

"I will not enter now into my private feelings, but I would beg that it should be remembered that the burden which constantly rests upon the shoulders of a sovereign is so heavy that it can only be borne in circumstances different from those in which I now find myself.

"I AM NOT OVERLOOKING DUTY"

"I conceive that I am not overlooking the duty that rests on me to place in the forefront the public interests when I declared that I am conscious that I can no longer discharge this heavy task with efficiency or with satisfaction to myself.

"I have accordingly this morning executed an Instrument of Abdication in the terms following:

"I, Edward VIII, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Emperor of India, do hereby declare my irrevocable determination to renounce the Throne for myself and for my descendants, and my desire that effect should be given to this Instrument of Abdication immediately.

"In token whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of December, 1936, in the presence of the witnesses, whose signatures are subscribed."

(Signed) 'EDWARD. R. I.'

"My execution of this Instrument has been witnessed by my three brothers, Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York, the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent.

"MY MIND IS FULLY MADE UP"

"I deeply appreciate the spirit which has actuated the appeal which has been made to me to take a different decision, and I have, before reaching my final determination, most fully pondered over it, but my mind is fully made up.

"Moreover, further delay cannot but be most injurious to the peoples whom I have tried to serve as Prince of Wales and as King and whose future prosperity and happiness are the constant wish of my heart.

"I take my leave of them in the confident hope that the cause which I thought it right to follow is that which is best for the stability of the Throne and the Empire and the happiness of my peoples.

Ex-King Boards Yacht At Portsmouth Sailing For Unknown Port In Secrecy

Utmost Precautions Taken To Prevent Knowledge Of Destination Being Known; Definitely Not Joining Mrs. Simpson In Cannes

POIGNANT FAREWELL TAKEN BY FORMER MONARCH AMONG HIS FAMILY

LONDON, Dec. 12.—With the utmost secrecy ex-King Edward, now plain "Mr. Windsor," left the country for an unknown destination early to-day.

A few hours after giving his Assent to the Abdication Bill, his last act as monarch, he drove to Portsmouth, where he went aboard a British destroyer.

All was bustle and activity aboard the destroyer as luggage, which was carried by several cars, was rushed aboard. The ex-King was greeted on the pier by members of his suite. After taking farewells, he boarded the vessel, which shortly after moved away. Mr. Windsor had left England.

It is learned that "Mr. Windsor" is being accompanied on his voyage by his equerry, Lieut. Colonel Piers Legh, a personal detective and one member of his domestic staff.

The ex-King arrived at Portsmouth from Windsor about midnight in a motor car with the blinds drawn. Other cars, laden with luggage, followed. Members of his suite were waiting for him at the dock-yard.

Ex-King Is Duke Of Windsor

LONDON, Dec. 12. — King George has conferred the first honour of his reign on his predecessor, who, on his abdication, gave up all his titles and became plain Edward Windsor, Esq.

His Majesty has made the ex-King "His Royal Highness the Duke of Windsor."

This means, of course, that when the former ruler marries Mrs. Ernest Simpson, the American lady for whom he relinquished the throne, she will become Duchess of Windsor.—Reuter.

Every member of the dock-yard staff was sworn to secrecy concerning the ex-King's movements and intentions.

The Wolfhound slipped alongside one of the jetties, where it was waiting with full steam up when the ex-King's car rushed through the dock-yard entrance.

Chatted To Admiral

The police on duty there evidently knew who was inside because they allowed it to pass the gates without hesitation.

The car proceeded immediately to the residence of Admiral Sir William Wordsworth Fisher, which is inside the dock-yard.

No one was allowed to follow the car in, but it is learned that the ex-King chatted for some time with Admiral Fisher before proceeding aboard the Enchantress.

The battleship Nelson could be seen in the distance with lights aglow, while the cruiser Neptune lay nearby.

All was bustle and activity aboard the Wolfhound as luggage was rushed aboard.

Farewell Family Party

Earlier in the evening a poignant farewell party was held at the Royal Lodge at Windsor, among those present besides the ex-King being his brother, the new King George VI, his mother, Queen Mary, the Duke of Gloucester, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice and the Earl of Athlone, uncle of the King.

A notable absentee was the new Queen Elizabeth, formerly Duchess of York, who has been confined to the house with a slight cold. It was considered inadvisable for her to go out in the cold night air.

Portsmouth was silent and deserted when the three cars of the ex-King swept through the gates of the dockyard, where no extra guards were on duty.

Later, another of the ex-King's cars, with a figure wrapped up in a large fawn coat seated behind the

driver, drove through the main entrance to the dockyard.

The car was stopped by an officer at the gate, but after a whispered word it shot forward in the direction of the jetty.—Reuter.

Private Plane Leaves

LONDON, Dec. 12.—In connection with the departure of the ex-King his private plane left Hendon at 2.40 o'clock yesterday afternoon, piloted by Major Fielden, ex-King's pilot. The plane, which carried three passengers, whose identity was not disclosed, presumably proceeded to the private airfield near Fort Belvedere.

Earlier in the afternoon the Tory leader, Mr. Winston Churchill, called at Fort Belvedere, spending several hours with the ex-Monarch, who was busy signing numerous documents, talking to the servants and giving last instructions in connection with his departure. The fate of the servants has not been settled yet. The detective who guarded the former King for many years, took leave of him yesterday.

Many persons called at the gates of Fort Belvedere, handing the Guard letters addressed personally to the ex-King. One of the messengers brought a prayer book and a huge bouquet of violets.

Well-informed quarters declare that the new King will most likely confer upon his brother the title of Duke of Sussex, or Albany.

Will Not Go To Cannes

Meanwhile, reports from Cannes confirmed that "Mr. David Windsor" as the ex-Monarch styled himself, will not go to Cannes, where his bride-to-be Mrs. Ernest Simpson, for whom he has given up the Throne, is now staying. It is stated that Mrs. Simpson will remain in Cannes for three or four more weeks, during which time she will not see the ex-King.

Rumours that a yacht was held ready in Monte Carlo to take on board the ex-King and Mrs. Simpson were authoritatively denied in Cannes. Mrs. Simpson is said to be in an excellent state of health, although slightly tired from the emotional strain of the past days. Yesterday afternoon she made an automobile journey to Grasse, a small town 25 miles distant from Nice.—Havas

Financial Position

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The former King, now Mr. "David Windsor," is left without an income, although the new King is likely to grant him a title, probably a dukedom with the revenue attached to it.

It will be recalled the late King George V left £4,000,000, but the former king is not entitled to any of it. The former king now owns only Fort Belvedere and the savings from the Duchy of Cornwall.—Havas.

"Defender Of The Faith"

LONDON, Dec. 12. — Much comment was raised here by the fact that the words "Defender of the Faith" figuring in the King's titles, did not figure in King Edward's message of abdication addressed to Parliament and read before the House of last Thursday.

Questioned yesterday in the House concerning the omission, the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, said it did not appertain to Parlia-

ment to insert any alterations in the Act of Abdication.

The vagueness of Sir John's statement is generally interpreted here as meaning that the Home Secretary was anxious to avoid a debate on the omission which may have been an involuntary one.—Havas.